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COMPREHENSIVE REZONING TIMELINE UNVEILED

(Bel Air, MD - January 27, 2009) - - Harford County Executive David R. Craig and County Council President Billy Boniface have announced the timeline for the county's process for Comprehensive Rezoning. The process will include 327 properties from throughout the county that are requesting rezoning.

"The process of Comprehensive Zoning Review will be a transparent and open," remarked County Executive David R. Craig. "We look forward to working with the County Council on each and every request for a zoning review, and will do all we can to ensure a fair and equitable process for the citizens of Harford County," Craig stated.

The Harford County Code requires a comprehensive zoning review a minimum of every eight years. The review process is initiated by either the County Executive or Harford County Council. The Department of Planning and Zoning prepares comprehensive revisions to the zoning maps in accordance with the county's adopted Master Plan, for consideration and adoption by the Harford County Council.

Property owners seeking to make a zoning change for their property were required to file their request with the Department of Planning and Zoning by December 15, 2008. A fee of \$800 was assessed for each application per parcel and for each requested change in zoning classification.

Public informational meeting will be conducted with the Planning Advisory Board prior to final recommendations. Prior to those meetings, properties with requested zoning changes will be posted with a sign specifying the zoning request, as well as the date, time and location of the public meeting.

The Department of Planning and Zoning will prepare a report containing the recommendations of the department and the Planning Advisory Board. The report, along with the comprehensive revisions and amendments to Zoning Maps, will then be submitted to the County Executive for review and final submittal to the Harford County Council. The County Council will then conduct public hearings on each of the requested rezoning applications before taking final action.

The County Council will introduce Comprehensive Rezoning legislation on Tuesday, June 16, 2009. The council will then conduct a series of work session, legislative sessions and public hearings through August 11, 2009 before taking final action on passage of the legislation.

To assist in the review process for each of the properties requesting rezoning, the

Department of Planning and Zoning has a new interactive web-based mapping program that provides a clear, three dimensional image of the properties and their environment.

Pete Gutwald, Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning stated, "The Department of Planning and Zoning looks forward to working through the Comprehensive Zoning Review process with similar input, cooperation and success, as reflected in the rewrite of the Zoning Code."